

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Claims 1-9 are cancelled.)

10. (Currently amended) An unnecessary word determination method in a document automatic classification system, comprising the steps of:

generating a word list for each of at least two categories by extracting words from a learning document set, the word list containing information on a frequency of appearance of each extracted word within each category;

determining an unnecessary word for a first category on the basis of the ~~relative~~ number of occurrences of ~~a given~~ ~~the~~ word within at least one other category wherein a word is determined to be unnecessary in the first category in response to the word having a ~~lesser~~ ~~greater~~ number of occurrences than a given standard in the at least one other category, the given standard defined irrespective of the number of occurrences of the word in the first category comprised of a predetermined threshold scaled by the number of documents in the at least one other category; and

eliminating words determined to be unnecessary words from each of the word lists.

11. (Previously presented) The method according to Claim 10, further comprising generating a document classification catalog by eliminating the words determined to be unnecessary words from the word.

12. (Previously presented) The method according to Claim 11, wherein the document classification catalog is comprised of a plurality of vector spaces wherein each vector space represents at least one category.

13. (Previously presented) The method according to Claim 12, wherein a target classification document is defined by a document vector and wherein a distance is defined between the document vector and each of the plurality of vector spaces such that the distance indicates a degree of similarity between the target classification document and a category represented by the vector spaces.

14. (Currently amended) An unnecessary word determination method in a document automatic classification system, comprising the steps of:

acquiring information on words from a document set, classifying the words according to category, and storing the words in a storage device;

recognizing the number of occurrences within at least one other category of a word belonging to a given category on the basis of the acquired information;

determining an unnecessary word for a first category on the basis of the ~~relative~~ number of occurrences of ~~a given~~ the word within at least one other category wherein a word is determined to be unnecessary in the first category in response to the word having a ~~lesser~~ greater number of occurrences than a given standard in the at least one other category, the given standard comprised of a predetermined threshold scaled by the number of documents in the at least one other category and defined irrespective of the number of occurrences of the word in the first category; and

generating a document classification catalog by eliminating words determined to be unnecessary words.

15. (Previously presented) The method according to Claim 14, further comprising storing said classification catalog into the storage device.

16. (Previously presented) The method according to Claim 15, further comprising the step of performing classification processing for classification target documents by using the classification catalog stored in said storage device.